

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 38 – 46, and 60 without prejudice, and enter the following new claims:

85. (New) A human agrin protein capable of inducing phosphorylation of the MUSK receptor and fragments thereof which retain the capacity of inducing phosphorylation of the MUSK receptor.

86. (New) The protein of claim 85 which is modified by deletions or insertion of one or more amino acids.

87. (New) The protein of claim 86 wherein the deletion comprises four amino acids.

88. (New) The protein of claim 87 wherein the four amino acids comprise KSRK deleted at position Y.

89. (New) The protein of claim 86 wherein the deletion comprises eight amino acids.

90. (New) The protein of claim 89 wherein the four amino acids comprise ELANEIPV deleted at position Z.

91. (New) The protein of claim 86 wherein the insertion comprises seventeen amino acids.

92. (New) The protein of claim 91 wherein the seventeen amino acids comprise VLSASHPLTVSGASTPR.

93. (New) The protein of claim 85 comprising SEQ ID NO: 36.

94. (New) The protein of claim 85 which is pegylated.

95. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 85 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

96. (New) A composition comprising the protein of claim 85 and an accessory component.

97. (New) The composition of claim 96 wherein the accessory component is myotube-specific.

98. (New) A method of inducing AchR clustering comprising exposing a MUSK receptor to the protein of claim 85.

99. (New) A method of activating the MUSK receptor comprising exposing the receptor to the protein of claim 85.

100. (New) A method of treating a patient suffering from a muscle disease or neuromuscular disorder comprising administering to the patient an affective amount of the protein of claim 85.

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Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, and in particular at:

Page 11, lines 15 – 19

Page 18, lines 7 – 14

Page 21, lines 26 – 28

Page 36, lines 14 – 18

Page 38, lines 1 – 10

Page 39, lines 4 – 11

Page 69, line 10 - page 74, line 25

Page 77, lines 2 – 23

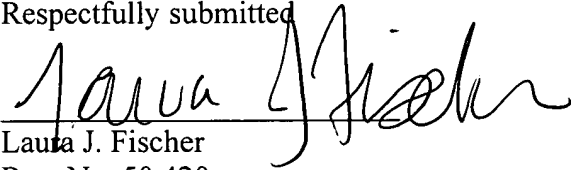
Page 86, lines 14 – 16

Figures 15 A and B

#### **Fees**

This amendment is being made in connection with the above -identified application. It is believed that no fee is associated with this amendment and responsive document. However, if a fee is due, Applicants hereby authorize any charge to Deposit Account number 18-0650.

Respectfully submitted



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